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*Islands Kultur ved Aarhundredskiftet 1900.* Af VALTÝR GUÐMUNDSSON.  
Copenhagen : 1902. 8°, viii, 160 pp.

To the student of anthropology undoubtedly the most interesting part of this volume on "The Civilization of Iceland at the beginning of the 20th Century" is the chapter which discusses the physical type and the mental characteristics of the modern Icelander. The Icelanders, being Scandinavians, belong ethnologically to the Nordic or Xanthochroid race of northern Europe. Physically he is most often long-skulled, has fair hair and blue eyes, but is only of medium height, being, therefore, in this respect unlike Continental Scandinavians, especially the Norwegians and the Swedes, who are among the tallest of peoples, measuring according to Keane 1.713 meters. There is, however, another type of modern Icelander, a black-haired, round-faced type, which is thus, in prominent physical characteristics, the very opposite of the prevailing type. Mentally he is also very different. Guðmundsson's characterization of the prevailing type is in brief this: Physically he is only slightly above medium height, and is inclined to be slender; he has a shorter and a weaker frame than his Norse ancestor. He is generally blond, has blue or gray eyes, and a narrow, long face. He is extremely independent, has no respect for authority, does not find it easy to subject himself to the leadership of another — he is oppositional. In politics he is a democrat, who advocates to the last extreme the rights of the individual. He is a friend of progress and has an unbounded love of liberty. In religion he is a rationalist; he is a stranger to pietism and intolerance, — there never was a pietistic movement in Iceland. He is a man of reason, and demands absolute freedom for one's personal convictions. He knows no class distinctions, and is apt to regard it as a mere accident if he is socially below the one he may happen to have to do with. He is sanguine, he is changeable. He is not practical. He is an optimistic idealist and is therefore apt to overrate his ability; but if disappointed he is not discouraged, but reconciles himself to circumstances and begins anew. So far the sanguine element is the predominant one. Then there is the opposite type. Those who belong here are generally melancholy of temperament and are characterized by very strong feelings, are constant, oppose change, look with disfavor on new movements, and are conservative. They are pessimistic, easily discouraged, suspicious, jealous of those who are better placed than they. They live for the moment, cannot plan for the future, rarely assert themselves against others, but follow the majority. Politically their interests are local; they regard the state as the means for individual betterment, the

country as a whole they care little for. In contradiction to the general characteristics of the prevailing type, lack of thrift is said to be a common Icelandic trait.

The explanation for these two opposite types Dr Guðmundsson finds partly in environment, partly in heredity. The Icelander has always lived in unhappy conditions ; he has been fostered in a severe nature. These environmental influences must have been strong ; they have undoubtedly helped powerfully to stamp his character in a way far different from that of his Norse brother, much better circumstanced. Racially the Icelander is a composite character, and the two types in the modern population will find their chief explanation in the different racial elements of which the original colonists in the ninth and tenth centuries were composed. It is therefore a most interesting case of the perseverance of type in a small number of the population surrounded by a much larger class of radically different characteristics. It will be remembered that Iceland was peopled, between 870-930, chiefly by colonists from western and south-western Norway. Norwegian Vikings had made western voyages already long before this. The Shetlands, the Orkneys, northern Scotland, the Western Isles, Man, large parts of Ireland, and northern England had been visited by them. Extensive settlements had been made, especially in Ireland and the Western Isles. The Norse Kingdom of Olaf the Fair in Dublin dates back to 851. Between these various settlements there was considerable internal migration of Norse colonists, e. g., from Ireland to northwestern England ; from the Western Isles to Scotland ; from Ireland to Scotland, the Faroes, and elsewhere ; and from all these to Iceland, which was settled last. While Iceland was colonized largely by Norsemen from Norway, it is well known that Norse colonies in the west contributed in no small measure to the early population. The *Book of Settlement* and the family sagas contain numerous Celtic names, although these can by no means always be taken as evidence of Celtic descent. The Norsemen from the Celtic West took with them their thralls and bondmen, and these were frequently given their freedom and provided with land by their masters. These different racial elements have developed an Icelandic character differing in many respects from that of the purer Teuton of the Scandinavian countries. The prevailing type has been modified ; the elements that predominate in this type, however, are the Norse-Germanic. They are in race chiefly the descendants of Vikings who would not submit to Harald Fairhair's rule, but left Norway and found a home for themselves in Iceland where they could be their own masters. Their most prominent trait is extreme independence. The sanguine ele-

ment is predominant. The second type is in a larger degree the descendant of the thrall. In contrast to the self-assertiveness of the former stand the submissiveness and the lack of confidence in self of the latter. But the thrall was not of one single race. For the greater part, perhaps, he was the Celt, made slave by the Viking invaders. But many colonists from Norway seem, as Dr Guðmundsson points out, to have brought with them thralls of a non-Aryan race — descendants of a pre-Scandinavian people in Norway. The Iclander's composite character finds its explanation largely in his racial origin. Environmental influences — social, political, and economic — have, however, also played an important part.

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*Explorations of the Gartner Mound and Village Site.* By WILLIAM C. MILLS (*Curator, Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society*). Reprint from the *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*, Volume XIII, Number 2. Columbus: 1904. 4°, 65 pp., illustrated.

The Gartner mound is six miles north of Chillicothe, Ohio, on the eastern side of Scioto river, seventy feet above low-water mark; it is seven feet six inches high and seventy-five feet in diameter.

Among the most interesting features described in connection with this mound is the novel series of pits and graves dug below the original surface of the ground and originally covered with three smaller mounds, which in turn were subsequently consolidated into a single mound by the heaping up of earth over all three.

Numerous human skeletons were unearthed, many having objects buried with them, others apparently having none. Several of the objects, both ornamental and domestic, are of the ordinary sorts, while others are unique; they consist of bone, stone, pottery, and shell. Refuse heaps of ashes and of bivalves were also encountered. Much information is given in relation to the daily life of the people who constructed this mound and lived on the adjacent village site. The bones of the animals identified are those of the ordinary wild beasts of the recent period; the author also found indications of the presence of the domestic dog.

Bone awls, scrapers, and fish-hooks in every stage of manufacture were discovered, not only in the mound but on the village site.

The author claims to have found undoubted evidences of cremation in the ash-pits, which contained half-charred human bones. With the burials were found perforated crescents made from sea-shells, as well as the bored teeth of the dog, raccoon, wolf, bear, and elk. A unique